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# **National Park Service**

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## **Secretary Norton Designates the J.C. Lore Oyster House in Maryland as a National Historic Landmark**

WASHINGTON-- Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton today announced the designation of the J.C. Lore Oyster House in Solomons, Md., as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The J.C. Lore Oyster House is one of 15 sites recommended to the Secretary by the National Park System Advisory Board for their national significance in American history and culture.

The 15 new NHLs also include the Sheldon Jackson School, Sitka, Alaska; Fresno Sanitary Landfill, Fresno, Calif.; Samuel Wadsworth Russell House, Middletown, Conn.; Nicholas Jarrot Mansion, Cahokia, Ill.; S.R. Crown Hall, Chicago, Ill.; Gibson House, Boston, Mass.; Dutch Reformed Church, Newburgh, N.Y.; *Modesty*, West Sayville, N.Y.; Rudolph Oyster House, West Sayville, N.Y.; Bethania Historic District, Bethania, N.C.; Merchants' Exchange Building, Philadelphia, Pa.; Randolph Field Historic District, Bexar County, Texas; New Kent School and George W. Watkins School, New Kent County, Va.; John Philip Sousa Jr. High School, Washington, D.C.

"These special sites underscore our heritage and tell stories of periods and events in our history," Norton said. "By preserving these unique sites, we share our culture and rich diversity with our children for future generations to learn from and enjoy."

NHLs are identified by theme and special studies prepared or overseen by National Park Service (NPS) historians and archaeologists. The NPS often conducts NHL studies in partnership with federal, state, tribal or local preservation officials; the academic community; independent scholars; and others knowledgeable about a particular subject. The J.C. Lore Oyster House was nominated for its importance in national maritime history.

"National Historic Landmarks guide us in comprehending important trends and patterns in American history," said Mainella. "The J.C. Lore Oyster House possesses those exceptional qualities that help us as a Nation illuminate and understand our complex national heritage."

The J.C. Lore Oyster House is a substantially unaltered marine industrial building overlooking the Patuxent River at the north end of Solomons Island. While most successful seafood processing plants underwent a series of alterations and additions throughout their operation, the Lore structure is a rare surviving example of a relatively unaltered early-20th-century seafood packing plant. The Lore Company was among the first to ship oysters by parcel post. A major supplier of oysters to ACME and Kroger food store chains, the Lore Company helped to make "Patuxent" brand oysters famous throughout much of the Midwest. The intact original processing equipment significantly adds to the importance of this nomination. The facility is part of the Calvert Marine Museum's interpretation of the commercial fisheries of the adjacent Patuxent River.

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All NHLs are included in the National Register of Historic Places, which is the nation's official list of the cultural resources and historic properties worthy of preservation. Landmarks constitute 2,341, or roughly 3 percent of approximately 73,000 sites listed in the National Register; the others are of state and local significance.

Most NHLs are owned by private individuals or groups. Others are owned by local, state, tribal, or federal government agencies, or may have mixed public-private ownership. Owners of NHLs are free to manage their property as they choose, provided no federal license, permit, or funding is involved. The owner agrees to observe simple preservation precepts with respect to the property and receives technical advice and assistance from preservation experts if needed.

Landmark designation offers advantages to owners who wish to preserve their properties. A bronze plaque bearing the name of the NHL and attesting to its national significance is presented to the owner upon request. NHL owners may be able to obtain federal historic preservation funding, when funds are available, and federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation as well as other provisions may apply.

The historic importance of potential landmarks is evaluated by the NPS and by the National Park System Advisory Board during meetings held twice a year that are open to the public. The Advisory Board includes citizens who are national and community leaders in the conservation of natural, historic, and cultural areas. Recommendations by the Advisory Board are made to the Secretary of the Interior on potential NHLs. Final decisions regarding NHL designations are made by the Secretary. Additional information on the National Historic Landmark program can be found on the NPS website at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/landmarks.htm>, or by contacting Carol Shull at (202)343-9504 or John Sprinkle at (202) 343-8166.

**--NPS--**

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